

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re application of: Johnson et al.

Serial No.: Divisional Application of 09/285,253 (Filed April 2, 1999)

For: **MODIFIED PIGMENTS HAVING IMPROVED DISPERSING PROPERTIES**

**Commissioner for Patents  
Washington D.C. 20231**

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Sir:

Prior to the examination of the above-identified application, Applicants respectfully request the entry of the following amendments.

AMENDMENTS

IN THE SPECIFICATION

After the "Title" Section and before the "Background of the Invention" Section, please replace the cross-reference section in its entirety with the following:

-- This application is a divisional of non-provisional application Serial No. 09/285,253, filed April 2, 1999, which claims priority to provisional application Serial No. 60/080,598, filed April 3, 1998, the specification of which is incorporated in its entirety. --.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 1 - 56 without prejudice.

Please add new claims 57-79.